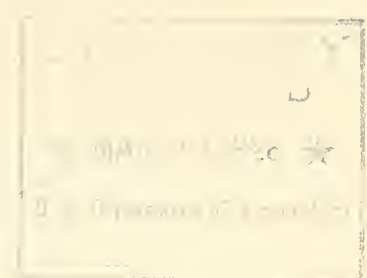


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICAL SURVEY



SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR BIRD FIELD TRIPS

The following suggestions are prepared for all who wish to make field trips for bird study, and will be found especially suitable for 4-H Agricultural Clubs, boy and girl scouts, and similar groups and individuals:

1. Spring, early summer, and autumn are the best times of year, but winter is good for some kinds of birds.
2. Early morning and late afternoon are the best times of day.
3. Go alone, or with as few companions as possible.
4. Take a notebook, field glasses, and wear inconspicuous clothes.
5. Pick out places that are good for birds, and cover different kinds of country.
6. Keep quiet and make no sudden or conspicuous movements.
7. Take notes and write them down at the time; do not trust to memory.
8. Identify every bird seen, and study its field marks (bill; head; wings; feet; tail; colors of plumage; shape; actions).
9. Notice:

- (a) Kind of place in which seen.
- (b) How many seen.
- (c) Whether in flocks or singly.
- (d) Method of flight (slow; fast; flapping; sailing).
- (e) Whether the bird walks; hops; climbs trees.
- (f) Disposition (shy; tame; quarrelsome; etc.).
- (g) Actions (quiet; active; peculiar).
- (h) Relations with other birds.
- (i) What use made of feet; tail; wings; bill.
- (j) Notes (kinds and differences).
- (k) Songs (kinds and differences).
- (l) Food (kind; how and where obtained and how eaten).
- (m) Mating.
- (n) Nest (where situated; materials; how built).
- (o) Eggs (number; size; shape; colors).
- (p) Young (number; how fed; behavior; how soon they leave nest; etc.).

Reference books:

- Henshaw, Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard, U. S. Dept. Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 513. (For sale only by Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., price, 15 cents.)
- Kalmbach and McAtee, Homes for Birds, Farmers' Bulletin 1456. Free on application to U. S. Dept. Agriculture.
- Reed, Bird Guides: (a) Land Birds East of the Rockies; (b) Water and Game Birds East of the Rockies; (c) Land Birds West of the Rockies. (Obtainable from book stores.)
- Hoffman, Birds of the Pacific States. (Obtainable from book stores.)

